

## Endless Summer...Coming to an End

### “Hot-Tober’s” Beachy Weather to Transition on Month’s Final Weekend

#### The Rundown

A month dominated by hot and breezy weather, punctuated by a “tease” of a front around Columbus Day (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), will see a more definitive break in the pattern beginning Friday afternoon the 26<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the 28<sup>th</sup> before a slow recovery toward average temperatures as Halloween approaches. Unlike the Columbus Day teaser, when the strong summer-like high pressure system returned to south Texas and northeast Mexico, the longer range pattern into early November indicates no such recovery. While temperatures will bounce back to the reasonable – and seasonable – 80s during the day and 60s at night, the persistent 90s are set to end on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

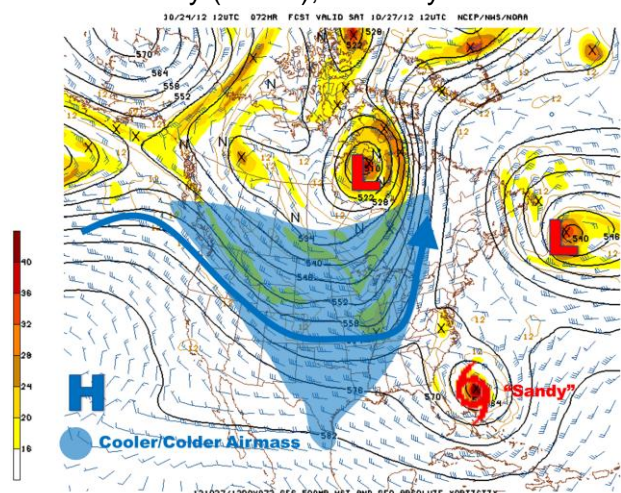
Prior to the sharp change (above), the summer feel will prevail through the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> for the Lower Rio Grande Valley, but end by late morning or noon at the latest across the Upper Valley and ranchlands. If you enjoy your days warm to hot and your surf temperature well into the 80s, take advantage of the remainder of the work week, for the weekend – and beyond – will signal the transition into conditions more typical of the end of October and early November.

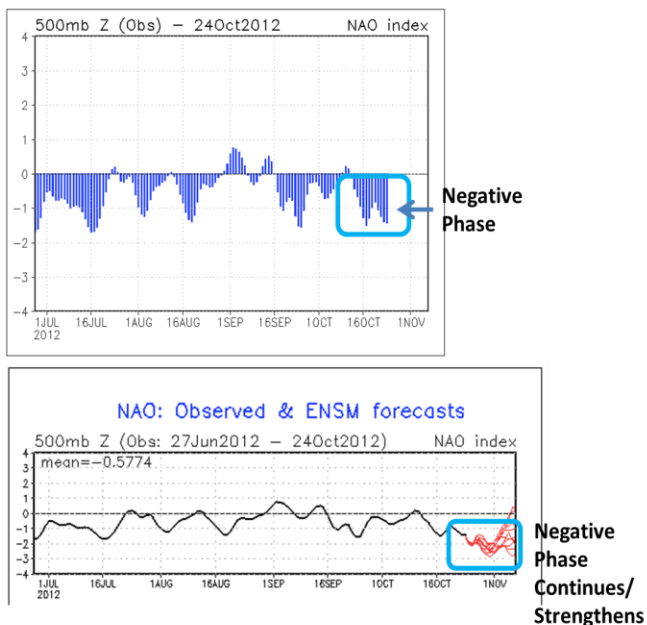
**Friday Night Lights:** The first chill of the front will be noticed to begin the evening’s games in the Valley, with north winds bringing temperatures down into the upper 60s mid Valley and lower 70s Lower Valley, with a notable decrease in humidity. The cooling may be accompanied by passing showers and perhaps a pre-game thunderstorm, but coverage should be local and intensity nothing like what [occurred on October 18<sup>th</sup>](#), when the atmosphere was fully loaded for bear with 100°F+ temperatures ahead of a weakening front. Temperatures will range through the 60s by the end of the evening.

**Saturday/Sunday Autumn Feel:** Considerable clouds and patches of light rain will combined with a cooling north wind to turn summer into autumn for all of South Texas on Saturday (above), with only a slow recovery Sunday – if pesky clouds can erode enough to allow temperatures to reach back into the 70s. Should the clouds hang on longer than expected, widespread daytime temperatures in the 60s to around 70 would be more common. In either case, long sleeves, jackets, and even a sweater may be needed in some areas. For those ready for a final break from summer’s swelter, enjoy the change.

#### The Reasons

At longnnng last, the dominant subtropical ridge is forecast to weaken and shift into the Pacific west of Baja California, while broad flow from the west and northwest



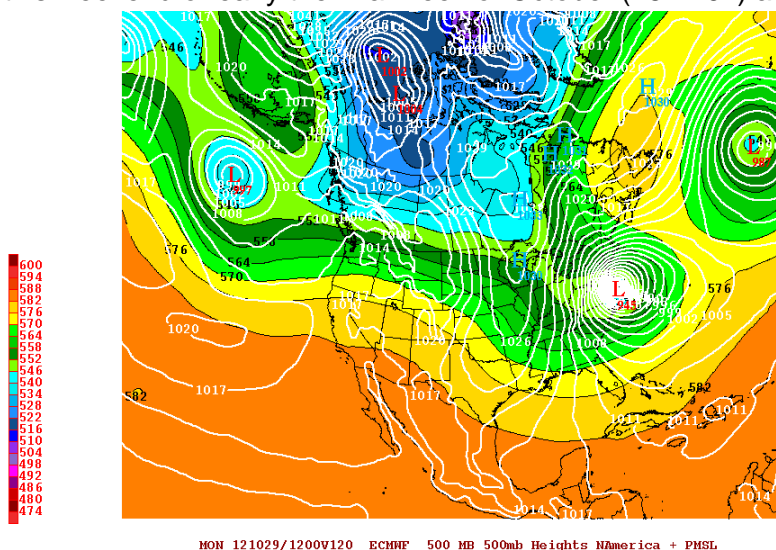


at jet stream level brings a combination of Canadian air and modified Pacific air masses across much of the U.S. (previous page, right). Across the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada, a trough is expected to develop and open the door to cool to cold Canadian airmass intrusion. The trough's intensity of relative persistence is likely related to the increasingly negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (left). As we move deeper into the autumn season, the phases of the [North Atlantic Oscillation](#) (NAO) and its nearby relative, the [Arctic Oscillation](#) (AO) begin to show more impact on weather conditions across the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. and Canada – namely, more persistent cool/cold periods (negative phase) and warm periods (positive phase). Texas often sits on the edge of the cool/cold and warm interface set by the trough position; individual fronts and surface high pressure ridge positions can make the difference between a period of average and even slightly above average temperatures, or below/much below average temperatures during a prolonged negative phase of the NAO/AO.

### What About “Sandy”?

About the only impact evolving Tropical Cyclone Sandy will have on the Rio Grande Valley would be to assist the upper low forecast to capture the storm late this weekend or early the final week of October (28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) and keep temperatures from rising too high – and could keep values near seasonal values (lower to mid 80s each afternoon, upper 50s to mid 60s by daybreak) by maintaining more of an easterly, rather than southeasterly, flow.

The impact for the Nation, however, may be quite significant. As of this update (Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>), confidence remains low on exactly where and when the greatest impact will occur. Confidence is becoming more certain on the potential for a “storm of memory” for some or many residents along the east coast, from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to the shores of Massachusetts to Maine. A worse-case scenario (right) would be a cyclone of epic proportions for the northeast megalopolis (Washington through Boston) with a combination of severe flooding alongside bays, sounds, and the ocean, persistent hurricane force wind which could uproot trees laden with rainwater, significant mountain and valley river flooding, and long lasting power outages for millions. A multi-billion dollar damage event is becoming more likely. If you or your friends have loved ones in these areas, now would be an ideal time to have them double check their emergency preparedness “stay” and “go” kits and family evacuation plans, and use the next few days to shore up their kits, plans, and homes.



Stay tuned to the [National Weather Service](#) or their [Facebook page](#) for continuing updates through the weekend on this potentially dangerous situation for the U.S. east coast.